

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 37 (Cancelled).

38.(Currently amended) Apparatus for producing [[a]] stranded metal cable cables of different gauge, comprising a supply of metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area, equipment for assembling the metal wires for cable formation from a supply of such metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area, and a machine for stranding the wires into a cable, the apparatus comprising at least two adjustable or replaceable rolling passes roll sets positioned between said supply and said stranding machine, each rolling pass roll set being configured for separately rolling each wire to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by an amount less than that at which brittleness of the wires is caused.

39. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each rolling pass roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 40% by each roll set immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.

40. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each rolling pass roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 30% by each pass immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.

41. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each rolling pass roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 25% by each pass immediately prior to advancement of the wires to the machine for stranding the wires into cable.

42. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, having just two rolling passes roll sets for each wire.

43. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, having three ~~rolling passes~~ roll sets for each wire.

44. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, including means for axially rotating the wires between the ~~rolling passes~~ roll sets.

45.(Original): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said means for axially rotating the wires rotates the wires through an angle of 45 to 135°.